

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 MCT-01 NEA-10 /077 W  
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R 291640Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5223

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 4712

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN

SUBJECT: PRE-31ST UNGA CONSULTATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 220772; (B) STATE 220773; (C) STATE 239400

1. SUMMARY: AFTER NUMBER OF POSTPONEMENTS, DCM AND POLOFF MET SEPTEMBER 27 WITH SAN JOSE BASED MEMBERS OF COSTA RICA'S UN DELEGATION, HEADED BY ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER, TO REVIEW UNGA ISSUES. ACTING FM EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT US AND COSTA RICA WOULD SHARE POSITIONS ON ISSUES THIS YEAR AS IN PAST. HE ALSO NOTED THAT COSTA RICA WOULD SOMEDAY LIKE TO SEE ITS IDENTIFICATION WITH US ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES RECIPROCATED BY U.S. FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION OF COSTA RICA'S TRADE PROBLEMS. END SUMMARY.

2. DUE TO KEY TOP LEVEL TRANSFERS IN COSTA RICAN FOREIGN MINISTRY, INCLUDING DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN POLICY, CHEF DU GABINET AND FOR MIN FACIO HIMSELF, EMBASSY REPRESENTATION TO FOREIGN MINISTRY WAS SCHEDULED, RESCHEDULED, AND FINALLY SET FOR SEPTEMBER 27. BOTH MINISTRY AND EMBASSY FELT THAT PRESENCE ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER MOST IMPORTANT; IT WAS DUE TO HIS STRONGLY EXPRESSED DESIRE TO HEAR EMBASSY BRIEFING THAT RESCHEDULING TOOK PLACE. EMBASSY THEREFORE JUDGED THAT CANCELLING MEETING, AS SUGGESTED REFTEL C, WOULD HAVE LED  
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TO SERIOUS MISUNDERSTANDING HERE. ACCORDINGLY, DCM AND POLOFF

PROCEEDED AS PLANNED, MEETING WITH JIMENEZ AND VARIOUS OTHER SAN JOSE BASED MEMBERS OF UNGA DELEGATION AND MINISTRY OFFICIALS TO REVIEW MAIN POINTS OF REFTELS A AND B AND RELATED INSTRUCTIONS.

3. EMBASSY REPRESENTATION COVERED GENERAL U.S. OBJECTIVES AT THIS SESSION OF UNGA AND MAJOR POINTS OF ALL ISSUES DISCUSSED IN REFTELS A AND B WITH EXCEPTION OF WESTERN SAHARA, TERRORISM, AND PANAMA CANAL. FIRST TWO WERE OMITTED FROM PRESENTATION FOR LACK OF SUBSTANTIVE TALKING POINTS, AND LAST WAS EXCLUDED BECAUSE US POSITION RE CANAL WELL UNDERSTOOD BY GOCR. GOCR OFFICIALS TOOK NOTE OF US OBJECTIVES AND OF SPECIFIC POINTS RE MAJOR QUESTIONS.

4. AT CONCLUSION OF PRESENTATION, DCM INVITED QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, INDICATIONS OF GOCR POSITION ON ISSUES COVERED, OR EXPRESSIONS OF GOCR INTEREST IN ISSUES NOT MENTIONED IN U.S. PRESENTATION. ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER RAISED ISSUE OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM WHICH, HE POINTED OUT, WAS OF GREAT INTEREST TO GOCR AND WHICH WAS MAJOR TOPIC OF FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO'S UNGA ADDRESS DELIVERED ONLY FEW HOURS EARLIER. WE EXPLAINED THAT TERRORISM HAD BEEN MENTIONED IN OUR TELEGRAPHIC INSTRUCTIONS AS AN ITEM OF KEY INTEREST TO THE U.S. BUT THAT WE HAD NOT INCLUDED IT IN PRESENTATION FOR LACK OF SPECIFICS RE U.S. INTENTIONS AT THIS TIME; WE STATED WE ARE AWAITING INSTRUCTIONS. WE EXPRESSED OUR GREAT SATISFACTION THAT FACIO HAD SPOKEN ON TERRORISM AND OUR HOPE THAT THIS SPEECH WOULD CONSTITUTE MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO EFFORT TO MOVE GA TO TAKE EFFECTIVE ANTI-TERRORIST ACTION. WE ALSO NOTED THAT SINCE FIRST PART OF FACIO SPEECH WAS TO CONCERN HUMAN RIGHTS, PERHAPS THERE WAS YET SOME HOPE OF GETTING GA EFFECTIVELY TO INVOLVE ITSELF IN THIS ISSUE.

5. LIC. JOSE LUIS REDONDO, WHO MAY BE ONE OF THE MOST EXPERIENCED MEMBERS OF THE GOCR DELEGATION, SUGGESTED THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUING CLOSE CONTACT AND CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE USG AND GOCR WITH RESPECT TO UNGA CONSIDERATION OF THE PROBLEMS OF RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA. HE FELT CERTAIN THAT RHODESIA IN PARTICULAR WOULD BECOME A MAJOR ISSUE AT THIS SESSION, AND HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE GOCR DELEGATION COULD BE HELPFUL IF

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CONSULTED AND KEPT INFORMED BY THE EMBASSY AND USUN. HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT U.S. WAS MISSING AN OPPORTUNITY BY NOT ARRANGING TO HAVE LEBANON DEBATED AT THIS SESSION. HE OBSERVED THAT AS ARAB NATIONS ARE SO DIVIDED THEMSELVES ON LEBANON ISSUE, TO RAISE IT EARLY IN THE SESSION WOULD HELP PREVENT A UNIFIED ARAB POSITION ON RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS OR ANY OTHER QUESTION THAT MIGHT BE TURNED AGAINST ISRAEL. WE PROMISED TO RELAY THESE THOUGHTS TO DEPT. AND UNGA.

6. ON TERMINATION OF MEETING ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR SHARING OF INFORMATION AND VIEWS, NOTED THAT COMMON IDEOLOGICAL BASES OF U.S. AND COSTA RICA FREQUENTLY LED US TO IDENTICAL POSITIONS ON UNGA ISSUES, AND EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THIS WOULD AGAIN BE THE CASE THIS YEAR. HE ALSO NOTED, SOMEWHAT FORLORNLY, THAT COSTA RICA WOULD SOMEDAY LIKE TO SEE ITS IDENTIFICATION WITH U.S. ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES RECIPROCATED BY U.S. FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION OF COSTA RICA'S TRADE PROBLEMS. LATER, IN AN ASIDE REMARK, ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER SAID GOCR DELEGATION WOULD COMPARE POSITIONS URGED ON THEM BY SOVIETS WITH POSITIONS RECOMMENDED BY U.S. HE ADDED THAT SOVIETS HAD BEEN VERY DOGMATIC IN THEIR PRESENTATION, IMPLYING THAT THIS APPROACH DID NOT SIT WELL WITH GOCR.

7. COMMENT. AS NOTED IN SEPTTEL REPORTING ON VARIED COMPOSITION OF GOCR DELEGATION, ABSENCE OF GONZALO FACIO FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY IS LIKELY TO RESULT IN RELATIVELY UNINSTRUCTED DELEGATION THIS YEAR. CONSEQUENTLY, IT WILL BE MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER FOR USUN TO REMAIN IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH MEMBERS OF COSTA RICAN DELEGATION. EMBASSY IS CERTAIN THAT USUN WILL FIND THEM TO BE RECEPTIVE TO CONSULTATIONS, AND CONSTRUCTIVE AND EFFECTIVE IN THEIR APPROACH TO THE ISSUES. TODMAN

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